

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065428

TOSEC 942

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC SECDEF WASHDC INFO CINCPAC
HONOLULU HI USIA WASHDC PHNOM PENH SAIGON FROM BANGKOK
22 MAR 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4793

REF: BANGKOK 4672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,PFOR, PGOV

SUBJ: US AIRLIFT RESUPPLY OF CAMBODIA

1. THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING SPATE OF COMMENTS TO
NEWSMEN BY PM KHUKRIT PRAMOT AND DEFENSE MINISTER
PRAMARN ON SUBJECT OF SHUTTING OFF US-SPONSORED
AIRLIFT FROM UTAPAO TO CAMBODIA.

2. USIS TRANSLATION OF KHUKRIT'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS
LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 21 FOLLOWS:

REPORTER: DO YOU REASSERT THE ATTITUDE THAT
WE WILL NOT ALLOW AMERICA TO USE OUR BASES TO HELP
CAMBODIA?

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KHUKRIT: IT HAS NO RIGHT ALREADY. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY REASSERTION.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT BASES IN THAILAND ARE USED AS ARSENALS FOR WEAPONS TO BE TRANSPORTED TO...

KHUKRIT: NO, NO. THERE ARE NONE.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL WE STOP THEIR USE?

KHUKRIT: THERE ARE NONE ALREADY. THERE IS NONE AT ALL AT PRESENT. THERE IS NO AID AT ALL IN THE FORM OF WEAPONS OR IN ANY WAY AT ALL.

3. ACCORDING TO UPI MARCH 22, KHUKRIT REPORTEDLY SAID NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDED YESTERDAY THAILAND IS QTE GOING TO ASK THE US TO END IT (AIRLIFT) UNQTE. HE ADDED: QTE WE AGREED THAT AIRLIFT SHOULD CARRY ONLY FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN GOODS. COUNCIL AGREED FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD DO WHATEVER REQUIRED TO REACH THIS GOAL. NO ARMS ARE GOING TO BE SHIPPED. WE WILL CONTINUE HUMANITARIAN AID BUT WILL IN FUTURE SEND IT THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS UNQTE. ALSO MARCH 22 MORNING, DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMARN TOLD NEWSMEN, ACCORDING TO A USIS TRANSLATION OF AN OFFICIAL TAPE PREPARED BY RTG PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT:

REPORTER: COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US SOME EXPLANATIONS IN REGARD TO AIRLIFTS. I HAVE HEARD THAT THE SENDING OF WEAPONS FROM UTAPAO IS STILL CONTINUING.

PRAMAN: IN REGARD TO THE SENDING OF WEAPONS, I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN A NEWS CONFERENCE IN WHICH I STATED THAT WE WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY NATION. THEREFORE, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS SENDING OF WEAPONS AT ALL. WE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS ACTIVITY.

REPORTER: BUT IT IS A FACT THAT THERE
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ARE PLANES FROM UTAPAO TRANSPORTING WEAPONS IN SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA.

PRAMAN: I KNOW OF NO SUCH REPORTS. I HAVEN'T HEARD OF OR SEEN ANY.

REPORTER: LAST WEEK THE SUPREME COMMAND TOOK REPORTERS TO UTAPAO AND THE REPORTS THEY WROTE

CONFIRM THAT THERE ARE PREPARATIONS IN REGARD TO WEAPONS.

PRAMAN: I DON'T KNOW WHERE THOSE WEAPONS WILL BE TAKEN, OR WHETHER THEY WILL GO...

REPORTER: BUT THEY WILL GO TO CAMBODIA.

PRAMAN: EN* THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS NO REPORT WHATSOEVER IN THE MATTER.

REPORTER: IN YOUR CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WILL YOU ISSUE AN ORDER EMPHASIZING THIS?

PRAMAN: THE PRINCIPLE WE ADHERE TO FIRMLY IS THAT WE WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

REPORTER: A FACT DESERVING OBSERVATION IS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER AND AFTER HE HAD OBTAINED A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, IN WHICH A STATEMENT HE MADE...INTIMATED A DEFINITE BAN ON THE USE OF BASES IN THAILAND FOR TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS THROUGH THEM. DOES THAT INCLUDE SENDING FOOD SUPPLIES TO CAMBODIA ALSO? IN YOUR CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAVE YOU ISSUED AN ORDER EMPHASIZING THIS?

PRAMAN: THERE IS NO NECESSITY TO HAVE TO EMPHASIZE IT. AN ORDER IS AN ORDER AND MUST BE OBEYED AND CONFORMED TO THROUGHOUT. SHOULD IT BE EMPHASIZED, IT WOULD MEAN THAT IT HAD BEEN VIOLATED THUS MAKING IT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE IT. BUT IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT NECESSARY IF THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLATION OF THE ORDER.

REPORTER: IN PRINCIPLE THAT MEANS THE UNITED STATES. BUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN SHOULD IT REFUSE TO CONFORM TO IT?

PRAMAN: NOT CONFORM? WE COULD NOT ALLOW THAT BECAUSE WE WOULD CONSIDER IT TO CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO INVITE RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO A MEETING IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN

GOVERNMENT POLICY TO THEM?

PRAMAN: WE MUST MAKE FURTHER MOVES IN REGARD TO MILITARY AFFAIRS, BUT WE HAVE OFFICIALS FOR THAT ALREADY. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO TELL THOSE OFFICIALS AND THEY WILL MAKE CONTACT AND MAKE FURTHER MOVES AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL.

4. NEWS ACCOUNTS REFLECT CONFUSING AND IMPRECISE STATEMENTS BEING MADE. THE NATION SAID KHUKRIT ANNOUNCED THAT QTE AMERICAN SUPPLY AIRLIFT TO THE BESIEGED CITY OF PHNOM PENH HAS BEEN ORDERED STOPPED IMMEDIATELY UNQTE. BANGKOK POST REPORTED PRIME MINISTER QTE DID NOT MAKE A CLEAR-CUT REPLY ON WHEN THAILAND WOULD STOP ALLOWING AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANES FROM AIRLIFTING ARMS SUPPLIES INTO THE BEALEDGERED CITY UNQTE. AMONG THAI PRESS, THAI RATH QUOTED PM AS SAYING QTE US HAS NO RIGHT TO USE BASES IN THAILAND FOR TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS TO CAMBODIA UNQTE. SIANG MAI REPORTED PM SAID QTE THE US HAS STOPPED USING UTAPAO AIRBASE OR ANY OTHER AIRBASE IN THAILAND IN ORDER TO HELP LON NOL UNQTE.

5. WIRE SERVICES PICKING UP STORY. UPI'S MAY BE PARTICULARLY HARMFUL. IT SAID QTE SOURCES INDICATED THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS ARE CONFUSED OVER THE POLICY CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT, AND ARE TRYING TO CONFIRM, UNOFFICIALLY, WHETHER THE AIRLIFT WILL IN FACT BEHALTED. THE SOURCES SAID THAT, SO FAR, THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT APPROACHED THE EMBASSY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE AIRLIFT UNQTE. COMMENT: ONLY KNOWN EMBASSY CONTACT WITH UPI REPORTER TODAY WAS PRESS ATTACHE, WHO REFUSED TO COMMENT ON KHUKRIT'S LATEST REMAKRS.

6. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL FOR US SPOKESMEN CONTINUE DECLINING TO DISCUSS WITH PRESS REMARKS OF THAI OFFICIALS IN THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS, FOR THE TIME BEING, COMPOSITION OF CARGO BEING CARRIED FROM UTAPAO TO CAMBODIA.

7. ANALYSIS OF SITUATION BEING SENT SEPTTEL. MASTERS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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To: JERUSALEM
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